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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
 WASHINGTON

January 30, 1973

Dear Henry:

As I leave my responsibilities as Deputy Secretary of State, I would like to pass on to you a conviction regarding the great importance of ensuring that the complete record of the Administration's activities in the field of foreign affairs is incorporated into the U.S. Government's permanent records.

The Department of State has been the repository for such records, holding for safekeeping Presidential files from earlier Administrations until they are fully retired and become a part of the national archives and the American historical record. Thus, when questions arise among scholars and other qualified persons concerning the achievements of earlier Administrations, the Department is able to assist in undertaking the appropriate research.

The Department's records of many of this Administration's most important activities in foreign affairs are not complete. While this may not currently be an obstacle to the conduct of foreign affairs as long as the key Administration personalities remain, when the present Administration goes out of office, or when leading personalities in it change, there could be major gaps in the continuity of knowledge within the U.S. Government which could seriously affect the conduct of foreign relations.

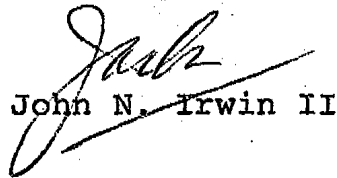
The Honorable
 Henry A. Kissinger,
 Assistant to the President,
 The White House.

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At some time in this second Administration I urge you to address this problem and to arrange that this Administration's foreign affairs actions and activities, Presidential records, as well as those of your own conversations and activities, be deposited with the Department to be held under whatever conditions the President wishes to lay down for their safekeeping.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



John N. Irwin II